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AppropriationTestimony

Support: Proposed S.B. No. 307 An Act Providing Funding For The State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force. Support: Proposed H.B. No. 5561 An Act Concerning Funding For The State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force.

Coalition of CT Sportsmen

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Appropriations Committee Public Hearing

March 22, 2013

**Support: Proposed S.B. No. 307 An Act Providing Funding For The State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force.**

**Support: Proposed H.B. No. 5561 An Act Concerning Funding For The State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force.**

Good afternoon Senator Harp, Representative Walker and other distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is James Crook. Today I'm speaking in favor of fully funding the State-Wide Firearms Trafficking Task Force (SFTTF).

I'd like to first thank Sen. Guglielmo, Sen. Stillman, Rep. Tong and Rep. Srinivasan for sponsoring or co-sponsoring these bills.

Most of the violent crime associated with firearms occurs in our major cities, according to CAGV it is 85%. CT law stipulates that certain criminals are prohibited from possessing firearms, yet for some reason, they break the law and acquire the firearms anyway. The simplest mechanism to reduce unlawful possession of firearms is to go after the straw buyers and traffickers.

The SFTTF's role is to enforce the state's gun possession and trafficking laws. Specifically, it must investigate illegal gun transfers, possession, and transportation and trace guns that law enforcement authorities seize.

This bill wins the common sense medal of the year. The SFTTF will greatly help to reduce not only illegal possession of firearms but also the senseless acts of violence we are all trying to stop. Since criminals are intent on breaking the law, this is where we can do the most good and save lives. This task force with proper investment will accomplish significantly more than any gun control legislation we have seen in session.

The SFTTF should be fully funded. I suggest doubling the proposed amount. The state should vigorously investigate and prosecute those who sell or purchase firearms for those who are not authorized. Thank you all for your time today.